

EUGENE F. MOONEY
SECRETARY



JULIAN M. CARROLL
GOVERNOR

Site:	A.L. Taylor
Break:	14.1
Other:	

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

DEPARTMENT FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601

TELEPHONE (502) 564-3350

May 9, 1979

Mr. Charles Miller
10711 Alberta Drive
Fairdale, Kentucky 40118

Dear Mr. Miller:

I am writing you in reply to your letter to Governor Carroll concerning the "valley of the drums" in Bullitt County.

According to a survey of hazardous waste generation in Kentucky, performed by this Department in 1976 and 1977, we produce over 1.3 million tons of hazardous waste yearly. Of this total, a large portion appears to be dealt with in an environmentally sound manner, i.e. by recycling or proper treatment and disposal.

Our efforts are now directed at that part of this stream which is not managed properly. Congress passed the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (P.L. 94-580) and mandated that either the Environmental Protection Agency, or the various states, address this problem. Kentucky has elected to do this on its own behalf, and also as an agent of the Federal Government at such time as their program is finalized.

The method to be used basically is one of permitting the treatment, storage, or disposal of wastes only at facilities or sites that meet the proper criteria, and a system for tracking the movements of these wastes from their point of origin to their final disposal - "cradle to grave".

With the current waste stream thus regulated, our attention can then be focused more effectively on illegal disposal, and problems that we have inherited from the past.

The "valley" is a good example of a problem from the past. These wastes were collected and dumped with no regard for the environmental consequences, because this was a generally prevailing attitude at the time; therefore, we are dealing with the situation by basically seeking alleviation rather than retribution, to clean the slate and then go forward.



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The individual dump sites discovered in the Louisville area represent differing problems and are being treated as such, because the nature of the underlying geological formations differs from site to site and so dictates our approach, along with the condition of the wastes at each site.

The "valley of the drums" is underlain by the New Providence member of the lower Mississippian Borden formation. It is a tight impermeable clay shale with very low groundwater potential. The site is not in a flood plain. There is only a thin soil mantle overlaying the shale. Most of the drums of waste are on the surface.

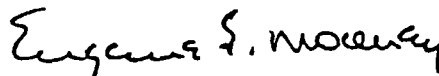
The resulting strategy for this site is to contain and treat the surface and immediate subsurface runoff from the site by means of ditching, dyking, and a temporary treatment system while seeking removal of the drums by administrative and legal means.

As far as the "valley" being designated as a permanent dumping site for chemical wastes, no such proposal has been received by this Department, and no such action appears feasible, due to its small size and its location.

The location of any land disposal site or treatment plant, additionally, has always been controlled by local government through their zoning or land use policies.

I hope that this gives you an accurate picture of our approach to the problem of the "valley of the drums"; however, if you desire any further information, feel free to call Jack McClure, Assistant to the Commissioner, Bureau of Environmental Protection, at 502/564-2150.

Sincerely yours,



Eugene F. Mooney
Secretary

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